

one such school in each of the large cities or commercial centres which dot our land, there would be infinitely more young men who would take up the work of properly fitting themselves for nursing, and thus relieve the women of a great many disagreeable cases which in all probability they would gladly and willingly surrender. There is no good reason why there should be an unfriendly rivalry or contention between men and women in the nursing line, because each can, if the proper spirit be shown, be friendly, agreeable, and helpful to the other. To exclude either from this grand, good field of labor would be a personal imposition, injustice, and injury to those who have aspirations in this direction.

As I said at the outset, women as a rule are better adapted to nursing in the broadest and highest sense of the term, but this does not by any means argue the men out of the question of entering this field of study and action.

The writer spent nearly a year of his life in army hospitals during the late war in Jacksonville, Fla., Savannah, Ga., and Havana, Cuba, and six months in the two leading hospitals of Chicago. He knew nearly a hundred nurses while there and saw them about their work, and observed nothing which would indicate or reflect discredit upon the profession, or which would disgrace or shock the modesty of a lady, whether she be the sister or wife of the physician or officer in charge, and he can see no good reason why a young man should not want a sister to act in the capacity of a nurse in an army hospital as well as a private one.

The conclusion of the whole matter is, as I see it, that there is certainly a place in the profession of nursing for men, and that in some cases, the ones which I have mentioned and perhaps others yet undiscovered, the services of a man nurse would prove preëminently helpful and advantageous.

JOHN FREDERICK.

PAXTON, ILL.

DEAR EDITOR: Dr. Stone's article in the July number of the JOURNAL surely provides for nurses abundant food for thought. With some ideas advanced by him we must be in sympathy, while with others we can but strongly disagree. It is true that for the past few years there has arisen periodically a cry for cheaper service in nursing. This cry has come always from the medical profession, and when one recollects the praise given to intelligent, well-trained nurses, and by the same men who now demand cheaper work, we can but wonder why the change of opinion has arisen. The intelligent, well-trained woman is and has always been, and she will continue to be, the most valuable aid to the profession which now makes loud demands for a cheaper article, and one wonders if excellent work is less desirable now than when first training-schools sent out nurses to the public. Be that as it may, the demand for cheaper service has become so general that schools have been organized to train inferior women in a much shorter time than is required for the educating of superior women, and those women not sufficiently well educated to enter the training-schools must have schools especially organized for them to be instructed in the few things which are deemed necessary to enable them to successfully care for the sick. If the question of expense is the only one to be considered, why would it not be far more satisfactory to employ the hourly nurse, who is as good in every way as she who remains the entire time with the patient, this giving the sick person excellent care for the little time necessary, and have a maid to do the work which properly belongs to a maid? Would it not be better for the patient

to have the proper care for a short space of time than to have very indifferent care continually? To a nurse this would seem the better way. It is true that when the movement of training attendants first started some graduate nurses were for a time connected with it. But they soon left it. Nurses of to-day are striving to advance, and the attendant movement is not considered by them a movement in the right direction. Dr. Stone suggests that small hospitals be made schools for attendants, and he also says of these small hospitals, "There are many points where, in the care of patients, the small institution offers advantages that are not to be found in the more complex machinery of a great hospital." This we know to be very true, and it is largely because of the excellent nursing given patients in the small hospitals that that is the case. Then, will the trustees of these small hospitals, who are justly proud of the high standard of their hospitals, be willing to lower the standard to enable them to train a class of women who when trained will be neither nurses nor anything else? We trust not. Many of these small hospitals are establishing excellent post-graduate courses, thus providing the best of nursing for their patients and giving added knowledge to graduates, some of whom go to them from our large and progressive schools. There are small hospitals with training-schools, and I am quite sure, should the curriculum of such a school be compared with that of the large school, the small school would not as a rule be the one to suffer by the comparison. Is it true that applicants for admission to the small schools are discarded applicants of the large schools? Not as a rule. Many parents who strongly object to their daughters entering large training-schools are quite willing to allow them to enter the smaller schools, and one will find intelligent, educated, refined young women in the small schools as well as in the large. The small schools have many advantages over the large. In the small schools, where no medical students are to be found, the nurse is the assistant to the visiting physician, where her sister of the large school stands by an interested looker-on, and as practice makes perfect, in such cases the nurse in the small school has the advantage. Let us not forget that some of our most able statesmen, and also some of our greatest leaders, have been graduates of small colleges, and to-day we can, if we look for them, find among our most able women in the nursing profession not a few who have graduated from small training-schools. So let us not pull down the small schools, but rather make them better each year, and if training-schools for attendants must be created, let it not be at such a cost as the destruction of the training-schools of the small hospitals.

SUPERINTENDENT OF A LARGE TRAINING-SCHOOL.

[We are inclined to believe that the true solution of this problem is an economic one. At present there are not enough nurses, and they are badly distributed. When the supply is greater than the demand,—now it is the reverse,—young nurses, like the young doctors, will have to work among the people of moderate means. A professional fee based upon skill and ability will take the place of the established scale of wages now paid to all nurses without regard to knowledge or experience.—Ed.]

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[LETTERS to the Editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communications cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the JOURNAL unless so desired.—Ed.]